

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. -6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) An improved lighting apparatus for backlighting a liquid crystal display in the cockpit of an aircraft, that may be viewed by a pilot wearing NVIS-A or NVIS-B night vision goggles, the lighting apparatus comprising:

a. a pair of light emitting diode arrays disposed [alongside the] on a plane perpendicular to the plane of the liquid crystal display [for providing illumination thereof], each light emitting diode array having a plurality of different groups of [different] like colored light emitting diodes;

b. light pipes parallel to the plane of the liquid crystal display for transmitting light from said light emitting diode arrays into the [across a] plane [parallel with and alongside] of said liquid crystal display for providing illumination thereof;

c. filters disposed between each of the arrays and the light pipes for filtering out infra-red light from the light emitting diodes; and

d. a switch for selectively powering [each] different groups of like colored [same color plurality of] light emitting diodes [in a group] in the arrays or powering all the light emitting diodes in the [array] arrays;

whereby the lighting apparatus is switchable for use with NVIS-A and NVIS-B night vision goggles.

8. (Currently Amended) The lighting apparatus of Claim 7 wherein each [of the arrays of] light emitting [diodes include] diode array includes different groups of like colored diodes, each group emitting only red green or blue light.

1 9.-14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Currently Amended) A method for illuminating a liquid crystal display in an
2 aircraft cockpit for viewing by a pilot wearing NVIS-A or NVIS-B night-vision goggles, [said]
3 the steps of the method comprising:

4 a. activating an array of [a plurality of different color] light emitting diodes
5 having a plurality of different groups of like colored light emitting diodes adjacent the liquid
6 crystal display;

7 b. transmitting light from the light emitting diode array into the plane of the
8 liquid crystal display to illuminate the liquid crystal display;

9 [b.]c. filtering infra-red light emitted by the array of light emitting diodes before
10 it is transmitted to the liquid crystal display; and,

11 [c.]d. selectively switching on [the] different groups of like colored light
12 emitting diodes in the array or switching on all the light emitting diodes in the array [in groups,
13 according to color] so that the [as required by a] pilot of the aircraft may use NVIS-A or NVIS-B
14 night vision goggles.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 15 wherein the step of switching
2 further includes switching on [only those] groups of like colored light emitting diodes emitting
3 only green red or blue light.

1 17.-20. (Cancelled)

1 21. (New) The improved lighting apparatus of Claim 7 wherein the filters are
2 adapted for NVIS-B goggles letting a small amount of red light through.

1 22. (New) The improved light apparatus of Claim 21 wherein when NVIS-B goggles
2 are worn by the pilot, the switch is set to light all the light emitting diodes in the arrays.

1 23. (New) The improved lighting apparatus of Claim 21 wherein when NVIS-A
2 goggles are worn by the pilot, the switch is set to light only one different group of like colored
3 light emitting diodes in the array.

1 24. (New) The method of Claim 15 wherein the filtering step further comprises
2 letting a small amount of red light through.

1 25. (New) The method of Claim 15 wherein in the selectively switching step, when
2 NVIS-B goggles are worn by the pilot, all the light emitting diodes in the array are switched on.

1 26. (New) The method of Claim 15 wherein in the selectively switching step, when
2 NVIS-A goggles are worn by the pilot, only one different group of like colored light emitting
3 diodes in the array are switched on.

1 27. (New) The method of Claim 26 wherein the one different group of like colored
2 light emitting diodes is not red.

1 28. (New) An improved lighting apparatus for backlighting a liquid crystal display
2 that may be viewed by a person wearing NVIS-A or NVIS-B night vision goggles, the lighting
3 apparatus comprising:

4 a light emitting diode array having a plurality of different groups of like colored
5 light emitting diodes disposed to back-light the liquid crystal display;

6 a filter disposed between the light emitting diode array and the liquid crystal
7 display for filtering out infra-red light from the light emitting diodes; and

8 a switch for selectively powering different groups of like colored light emitting
9 diodes in the array or powering all the light emitting diodes in the array;

10 whereby the lighting apparatus is switchable for use with NVIS-A and NVIS-B
11 night vision goggles.